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islation. A special commission also has been sent to Europe to study methods of judicial procedure in armies abroad. There cannot be too much publicity on this phase of military activity; and the American system must conform to the highest code of ethics it is possible to enforce. It must be a system humanistic and not legalistic or militaristic, and it must carry out ideals of democracy and not autocracy.

### PUBLIC OPINION AND THE LEAGUE

THE *Literary Digest*, in its issue of April 5, published a symposium to which 1,377 editors of daily newspapers in all parts of the United States contributed. The journalist does not always either reflect public opinion as accurately or shape it as potently in his community as he thinks he does. Nevertheless he is a fair barometer of civic atmospheric conditions, and his opinion expressed in a poll of the nation's mind and will is not to be discounted unduly.

To the *Literary Digest's* question, "Do you favor the Proposed League of Nations?" 718 men answered "Yes," and only 181 "No." To those who answered "Yes" without any qualifications there must be added 478 editors, who replied affirmatively, but with conditions such as they deemed necessary to protect either the interests of the United States or nations that might otherwise be restricted by the binding clauses of the original draft put forth tentatively by the Peace Conference. In some cases the replies were strictly personal. In others the answer was admittedly based on evidence of popular opinion registered by action of legislatures, mass meetings of citizens and civic organizations. In most cases there was apparent intention of accurate statement of fact and elimination of partisan, class, or personal feeling. On the whole the result indicated the accuracy of President Wilson's contention in his address in New York City just before sailing the second time for France, that he had the country with him in support of the formation of the League.

So much for the editors of newspapers. What about readers of journals? In response to the question, carefully drafted by ex-President Taft. "Do you wish the United States to enter a League of Nations to preserve peace?" readers of sixteen daily newspapers with a combined circulation of 2,000,000 buyers each day and representing urban communities of the Atlantic coast, the mid-West, the South, and the Pacific coast, responded by ballots during March and early April. The total vote for the League was 107,744 and 33,427 against. In Houston, Texas, 96 out of every hundred persons responding voted for the League; in Chicago 39 out of

every hundred were opposed. Washington, the national capital, cast 78 per cent of its votes favorable to the League, a city where personal hostility to the President and to anything he does, is alleged to be strong, and where the attack upon the League has been most open and virulent by national lawmakers. When to statistics of this sort are added the formal favoring votes of practically all of the religious, labor, agricultural, and women's organizations of the country and many if not most of the commercial bodies, including the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and its affiliated local bodies, as well as some of the State legislatures, it is difficult to see where the Senate's critics of the League are to get moral support for successful opposition to the hoped-for product of the Paris Conference. This is especially true in the light of the mounting evidence that visits to their constituents since Congress dissolved have taught some of the lawmakers that the rank and file of the people are in no mood for a legalistic policy by the Senate in meeting a supreme human need.

### THE RIGHTS OF AFRICANS AND OF PEOPLES OF AFRICAN ORIGIN

Strangely enough, the papers seem to give little publicity to a recent gathering at the French Capital, in the interest of colored peoples. The Pan-African Congress, held February 19 and 20, at the Grand Hotel, Paris, relates materially to the future peace of the world. It consisted of representatives from the United States of America, the French West Indies, Haiti, France, Liberia, the Spanish, and Portuguese Colonies, San Domingo, England, Algeria, Egypt, the Belgian Congo, Abyssinia, and from Colonial Powers, such as France, Belgium, and the United States. Among the speakers at the Congress were Mr. Blaise Diagne, deputy from Sénégéal to the French Chamber and Commissioner General in charge of French Colonial effectives; C. D. B. King, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia; Franklin-Bouillon, chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs in the French Chamber; Gratien Candace, French deputy from Guadeloupe; William English Walling and Charles Edward Russell, of the United States.

It is surprising that more interest has not been taken in this gathering, speaking as it did, for approximately 200,000,000 Negroes and Negroids.

The reasons for believing that this meeting was significant at this time of reorganization transcend the numbers represented. They relate to all the principles now seen to be vital. These millions are becoming self-conscious. What is more, they are bitter. One repre-